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**10 January 2020**

Dear Member

## **Cabinet – 16 January 2020**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting of the **Cabinet**, the following information that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

The Council at its meeting on Wednesday 8 January 2020 considered a petition with regard to car parking charges and made recommendation to the Cabinet. The minute of this meeting is attached as are questions asked during public question time, both of which should be considered under item 12 on the agenda: **Off Street Parking Places Order**

Yours sincerely

**Sally Gabriel**  
**Member Services Manager**

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Council – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Minute 101 – Public Question Time

Jo Webber speaking with regard to item 6 on the agenda stated that she had a business in Tiverton for 26 years. She provided the following 5 concerns with regard to the increase in car parking charges in the multi storey car park:

- The British Independent Retailer Association recently drew up a 5 point plan to save the high street, included in this was 'give free car parking in town centres to increase footfall'.
- The multi storey car park is the gateway to Tiverton. It is often the first point of contact with our town.
- We need to encourage longer dwell times so people stay longer, buy from more than one shop or business.
- Tiverton needs to encourage people to work in the town centre and the tourists to visit.
- Our success is your success. Thriving business means full car parks and good revenue for Mid Devon. Let Tiverton be known as a vibrant exciting town. It takes teamwork and you have the key to make our town successful or empty. Let's do the right thing

Ana Hendy referring to item 6 on the agenda stated that we in the Labour Party at Tiverton Town Council have noticed with some dismay the cost of parking in Tiverton is set to change quite considerably and that the multi storey car park in particular will become the most expensive car park in Mid Devon. We also note that a petition has been started by business owners in the town against these changes. We also question how these proposed changes will affect the town centre plan which has amongst it the ambition of attracting more visitors.

We are disappointed that MDDC have not consulted us at the Town Council on these changes and I in particular as Town Council representative for Central ward feel that before a final decision is made consultation with the Town Council would be appropriate so that the views of our constituents could be fairly represented and taken into consideration.

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## Council – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Minute 105 – Petition

Mrs Miller presented a petition with 2118 signatures to the Chairman of the Council and outlined the basis for the petition:

We the undersigned want the Mid Devon District Council to not impose excessive fees for local shoppers and workers who use the Multi Storey on a daily basis which may cause them to venture elsewhere and to not take away the free parking currently available at Westexe South and William Street.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 12.2, Mrs Miller addressed the Council raising the following issues: Westexe South car park had a quick turnaround and the free parking allowed people to pop to the shops and have a hair cut within the 30 minutes free parking allowed. Her business had business rates to deal with and rent to pay and that she was afraid that the Westexe part of the town would die. She referred to the free parking available in Gold Street and how the shops benefitted from that, also that the multi-storey car park was used by shop owners and workers in the town and that the shops needed footfall and excessive car parking would not help that.

A debate then took place with the following issues arising:

- The discussions that had taken place with the working group and the recommendations made to the Economy Policy Development Group
- Whether the new charges were excessive and the impact on those who parked all day in the MSCP.
- The 30 minutes free parking that was currently available at Westexe South and at William Street and the need to support local traders.
- The need to encourage the purchase of permits which would reduce the costs.
- The introduction of £1 for 5 hours in long stay car parks that had been put in place in 2011 and the increase to £2 per day which had also proved popular.
- The impact of increased charges on the town and the need to listen to those who had signed the petition.
- The need for a clear recommendation to the Cabinet

It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that the decision to increase parking charges in Tiverton specifically the Multi-Storey Car Park and the loss of 30 minutes free parking in Westexe South and William Street be reconsidered.

(Proposed by Councillor N V Davey and seconded by Councillor R J Chesterton).

Upon a vote being taken, the **MOTION** was declared to have been **CARRIED**.

Note: Councillor C J Eginton declared a personal interest as he owned a business in Tiverton.

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